

2003 HUNTING SEASONS

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	SHOOTING HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
MOURNING, COLLARED & WHITE-WINGED DOVES	Sept. 1–Nov. 9	One-half Hour Before Sunrise to Sunset‡	12*	24*
COMMON SNIPE	Sept. 1–Dec. 16		8	16
SORA & VIRGINIA RAIL	Sept. 1–Nov. 9		25*	25*
AMERICAN WOODCOCK	Oct. 15–Nov. 28		3	6
BLUE-WINGED, GREEN-WINGED & CINNAMON TEAL	Sept. 6–Sept. 21	Sunrise to Sunset‡	4*	8*

*Combined total of all species.

‡See page 7 for sunrise/sunset table.

HARVEST SURVEY NEEDS YOUR RESPONSE

When you purchase your Migratory Bird Hunting Permit, the vendor asks you a series of questions about your last year's migratory bird hunting activities. The answers you provide place you in a category with other migratory bird hunters by type and amount of hunting activity. This allows the Conservation Department and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, through the cooperative effort known as the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program, to use harvest surveys to sample hunters from each category. This survey information is extremely important and is considered when establishing migratory bird hunting seasons each year. Your cooperation in supplying this information is vital. If you are one of the Missouri migratory bird hunters selected to receive a survey, please complete and return it even if you did not hunt or were unsuccessful while afield. All the information you provide is important. By completing the survey, you are doing your part to help manage these important migratory birds.

Teal Numbers Increase in 2003

Increased precipitation and late spring rains in much of prairie Canada and portions of the north central United States have improved habitat conditions for teal and other waterfowl for fall 2003. As a result, blue-winged teal numbers increased to 5.5 million during spring 2003, up from 4.2 million the previous year.

The timing of migrations, weather and wetland habitat conditions in Missouri have a much greater influence on hunter success than numbers of teal in the fall flight. Regardless, the status of blue-winged teal determines whether or not a hunting season is offered each fall, and the number of days allowed. Under the current harvest strategy, blue-winged teal population estimates between 3.3 and 4.7 million result in a season of up to nine days in length, and up to 16 days are allowed when the breeding population is above 4.7 million.

Blue-winged teal migrations into Missouri begin in mid-August and continue through September, well before the regular duck season. The majority of the September season harvest is comprised of blue-winged teal, while green winged teal usually comprise less than 20 percent. Annual teal harvest has ranged widely between 6,500 during 1993 to 34,500 during 1982.

In Missouri, September teal seasons are designed to coincide with blue-winged teal migrations and to avoid initial arrivals of other early migrant species such as pintails and shovelers. Even so, wood ducks reared in Missouri and also some early migrant duck species other than teal present hunters with the responsibility of identifying their target before they shoot. A sunrise opening ensures adequate light for correct identification.

For additional help in identifying ducks, purchase the Conservation Department's 16-minute video, "The Key to Duck ID," by calling toll-free 877-521-8632.

DAY	SEPT.		OCT.		NOV.		DEC.	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
1	6:38	7:39	7:04	6:52	6:35	5:09	7:07	4:48
2	6:39	7:38	7:05	6:50	6:36	5:08	7:08	4:48
3	6:39	7:36	7:06	6:49	6:37	5:07	7:09	4:48
4	6:40	7:35	7:07	6:46	6:38	5:06	7:10	4:48
5	6:41	7:33	7:08	6:46	6:39	5:05	7:11	4:47
6	6:42	7:32	7:09	6:44	6:41	5:04	7:12	4:47
7	6:43	7:30	7:10	6:43	6:42	5:03	7:13	4:47
8	6:44	7:28	7:11	6:41	6:43	5:02	7:14	4:47
9	6:45	7:27	7:12	6:40	6:44	5:01	7:14	4:47
10	6:46	7:25	7:13	6:38	6:45	5:00	7:15	4:48
11	6:46	7:24	7:14	6:37	6:46	4:59	7:16	4:48
12	6:47	7:22	7:15	6:35	6:47	4:58	7:17	4:48
13	6:48	7:21	7:16	6:34	6:48	4:57	7:18	4:48
14	6:49	7:19	7:17	6:32	6:49	4:57	7:18	4:48
15	6:50	7:16	7:18	6:31	6:50	4:56	7:19	4:49
16	6:51	7:16	7:19	6:30	6:51	4:55	7:20	4:49
17	6:52	7:13	7:19	6:28	6:53	4:54	7:20	4:49
18	6:53	7:13	7:20	6:27	6:54	4:54	7:21	4:50
19	6:53	7:11	7:22	6:25	6:55	4:53	7:21	4:50
20	6:54	7:09	7:23	6:24	6:56	4:53	7:22	4:50
21	6:55	7:08	7:24	6:23	6:57	4:52	7:23	4:51
22	6:56	7:06	7:25	6:21	6:58	4:51	7:23	4:51
23	6:57	7:05	7:26	6:20	6:59	4:51	7:24	4:52
24	6:58	7:03	7:27	6:19	7:00	4:50	7:24	4:53
25	6:59	7:01	7:28	6:17	7:01	4:50	7:24	4:53
26	7:00	7:00	7:29	6:16	7:02	4:50	7:25	4:54
27	7:01	6:58	6:30	5:15	7:03	4:49	7:25	4:54
28	7:02	6:57	6:31	5:14	7:04	4:49	7:25	4:55
29	7:02	6:55	6:32	5:13	7:05	4:49	7:26	4:56
30	7:03	6:54	6:33	5:11	7:06	4:48	7:26	4:57
31			6:34	5:10			7:26	4:57

This table is for Jefferson City and points on the same longitude north and south. For locations east, subtract one minute for each 13.5 miles of airline distance. For locations west, add one minute for each 13.5 miles. Sunrise and sunset from Sept. 1 to Oct. 26 have been converted to Daylight-Savings Time.